

Sport

Border yet undecided

SYDNEY, Aug 27: World record cricket run-getter Allan Border says he is unsure about pursuing the vacant Australian coaching position, reports AFP. Border has been among several ex-players mentioned as possible replacements for Geoff Marsh who this week announced the Current Sri Lankan tour would be his last assignment with the World Cup champions.

But Border, already a national selector, said he would need a few things to "fall into place" before he would consider accepting the job, should an offer be forthcoming.

"It has some appeal but there'd be a lot of things that have to fall into place in the meantime," he said Thursday.

"I think there's going to be some outstanding candidates, so the board will have to weed through that process."

Australian Cricket Board chief executive Malcolm Speed said an interim coach would be appointed for the Zimbabwe tour in October and he hoped to have a permanent replacement before the start of the domestic season.

Speed said the ACB would also change the job description of the national team coach.

"It's a rather unusual coaching position," Speed said Thursday.

"As time moves on perhaps, the qualities that we're looking for in a coach change."

"So we're going to take the opportunity of Geoff's resignation to sit down and put some effort into re-designing the job description."

Speed said while the position would not be advertised, there were plenty of people ideal for the job.

"There are a number of good candidates and obviously Allan is certainly one of those," he said.

Others in the running include Queensland Shelfield Shield coach John Buchanan, outgoing New Zealand Test coach and former Australian Test wicketkeeper Steve Rixon and South Australian coach and former Test skipper Greg Chappell.

Miller not allowed to move

MELBOURNE, Aug 27: Australian Test bowler Colin Miller has lost his right to transfer from Tasmania to Victoria next season after the Australian Cricket Board's appeals committee rejected the move, reports AFP.

But Miller, who leaves for Sri Lanka Friday, is seeking advice from a Queen's Counsel to test the validity of the transfer rules.

The committee sat for almost seven hours hearing the case after Tasmania refused to release him.

Australian Cricketers' Association chief executive Tim May said Miller, 34, was bitterly disappointed with the decision and was determined to stay in Victoria.

After seven years with Tasmania, Miller has returned to Melbourne for family reasons.

Rios reaches last eight

BROOKLINE, Massachusetts, Aug 27: Second-seeded Marcelo Rios of Chile needed to call upon his best clutch shots Thursday to overcome Daniel Nestor of Canada and advance to the quarterfinals in the US pro Championships, reports AP.

Rios, down two break points on his serve in the ninth game of the final set, survived 6-7 (6-8), 6-2, 6-4 in dramatic fashion. In the final game, he broke Nestor's serve at love with a succession of passing shots followed by the Canadian's double fault.

Lacombe splashed out in the close season as Lyon targeted a place in the European Championships League and their first French league title.

The Champions' League dream fell by the wayside on Wednesday night as Lyon crashed 2-0 away to the moderate Slovenians of Maribor, going out of the qualifying round 3-0 on aggregate.

Not only were Lyon outplayed for long periods by Maribor, they also were out-fought and out-thought.

Lacombe's splashing out in the transfer market on strikers Sonny Anderson and Tony Vairelles and midfielder Pierre Laigle appears to have back-fired badly.

His new strikeforce of Anderson and Vairelles are less partners, more players who appear not to have struck up even a passing acquaintance.

Even last year's stars are struggling, with prodigiously-talented youngster Steed Malbranque a shadow of the player he was last season, while playmaker Vikash Dhorasoo has flattered inconsequently on the fringes of the action this season and has lost his place in the national team squad.

"Losing twice to Maribor is nothing short of a catastrophe," said veteran forward Alain Caveglia. "We need quickly to sort ourselves out, but it won't be easy this weekend."

Lyon get a chance to make some amends on Sunday when they host unbeaten French league leaders Paris St Germain at the Stade Gerland, but it will be a tough task against a Paris team that struggled last year but has rediscovered its self-belief this term.

PSG fought back impressively from a goal down to salvage a draw with determined Auxerre last weekend and coach Philippe Bergero said: "This team is finally becoming a real unit with a lot of spirit."

Bergero may soon be faced with a difficult choice, however. Veteran goalkeeper Bernard

Law lashes Somerset



LONDON, Aug 27 (Reuters/AFP):

Stuart Law, the Queensland captain regularly omitted by Australia, compiled a career-best 263 for Essex against Somerset on Thursday.

Law raised his English county championship aggregate to 1,648 runs -- an average of more than 86 for the season.

He has completed eight centuries in his last 10 matches and needs two more to break the 65-year-old Essex record of nine for 35.

Essex totalled 544, a first

innings lead of 298.

Essex resumed on 280 for four and Law, 135 not out at the start of play, batted throughout most of the day before falling victim to England paceman Andy Caddick.

Somerset faced an uphill task just to make Essex bat again and their task was hardly helped when Marcus Trescothick was caught by that man of the day, Ronnle Irani, to leave them at 13 for one.

But their second innings was interrupted by bad light and Essex will hope conditions improve considerably if they are to cash in on another superb display by Law on the final day tomorrow.

In other matches, South African all-rounder Jacques Kallis missed out on a century when he was caught and bowled by Ashley Giles for 94 as Glamorgan reached 266 for seven in the rain-affected game against Warwickshire at Cardiff.

Kent and Yorkshire both

won with a day to spare.

Third-placed Kent beat Northamptonshire by an innings and 12 runs, their fifth victory in six games.

At one stage, Kent were 41 for seven in reply to Northamptonshire's 69. They recovered to 167, then dismissed the visitors for only 86. Former England all-rounder Mark Ealham took six for 35.

At Trent Bridge: Yorkshire beat Nottinghamshire by 3 wickets.

Nottinghamshire 184 (J Gillian 50, Hamilton 5-30, C White 4-44) and 144 (C White 4-32) v Yorkshire 185 (R Blake 60, P Franks 5-52) and 144-7.

At Derby: Surrey 350-9 dec (I Ward 103, C Thorpe 89) v Derbyshire 154 and 28-1.

At Riverside: Middlesex 222 (M Ramprakash 53, O Shah 52, S Harrison 4-51) and 59-3 v Durham 290 (J Lewis 98, R Johnson 4-102).

At Chelmsford: Somerset 246 (P Holloway 60, W Thompson 4-46) and 21-1 v Essex 544 (S Law 263, D Robinson 112, A Grayson 50, P Jones 4-126).

At Cardiff: Glamorgan 300-8 dec (J Kallis 94, M Maynard 72, R Croft 57 no, A Richardson 4-75) v Warwickshire 16-0.

At Southampton: Sussex 375 (M Di Venuto 93, J Bates 57, A Cotter 54, C Adams 53, S Udal 4-102) v Hampshire 76 (R Kirtley 7-21) and 250-3 (W Kendall 85 no, R Smith 66).

At Worcester: Worcestershire 227 (S Rhodes 74, P Martin 5-52) v Lancashire 19-2.

At Leicester: Leicestershire 214 (MS Kasprowicz 61, M J Cawdron 5-54) 347-7 (A Habib 141, J Dakin 124) v Gloucester 166.

LAW ... double ton

ther side reached 200 in the match, which will be the subject of a report by the official pitch

inspectors.

BRIEFSCORES

At Canterbury: Kent beat Northamptonshire by an innings and 12 runs, their fifth victory in six games.

At Northamptonshire: 69 (J Thompson 6-27) and 86 (M Ealham 6-35) v Kent 167, then dismissed the visitors for only 86. Former England all-rounder Mark Ealham took six for 35.

At Trent Bridge: Yorkshire beat Nottinghamshire by 3 wickets.

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JENNY THOMPSON

has seen them lose twice and win twice.

Monday's 2-1 away victory at David O'Leary's highly fancied United, tipped for mid-table mediocrities at the start of the season, have surprised the sceptics by winning three of their first four games with attractive, attacking football.

By contrast, Leeds, who finished fourth last season and are considered by some to be genuine title contenders this time round, have struggled for form and have won just twice in five outings.

Giuliano Vialli's Chelsea, unbeaten in their first three games, travel to London rivals Wimborne while in-form Everton are away to strugglers Derby.

West Ham, who qualified for the UEFA Cup with victory over French side Metz on Wednesday, will be confident of securing all three points when they travel to Bradford.

The Gunners could welcome back three key players from injury: defenders Tony Adams and Nigel Winterburn and goalkeeper David Seaman.

England veteran Adams is currently recovering from a double hernia operation last month but Wenger said: "I think he has a good chance to play on Saturday."

But Wenger will almost certainly be without Nigerian star Nwankwo Kanu who picked up a thigh injury in Wednesday's 2-0 victory over Bradford at Highbury.

The prognosis is not too good," admitted Wenger. In other matches, Totten-

ham will be hoping to maintain their flying start to the season with victory over Leeds at White Hart Lane.

George Graham's Tottenham, tipped for mid-table mediocrities at the start of the season, have surprised the sceptics by winning three of their first four games with attractive, attacking football.

The Reds will have been further lifted by the return to action of teenage wonderkid Michael Owen who has been sidelined for five months after tearing a hamstring.

The England World Cup star came through a friendly against Crewe on Tuesday and could be named as a substitute against Arsenal.

Arsenal, meanwhile, will be out to reaffirm their title credentials after the psychological blow of their home defeat by United last weekend.

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England's Premiership on Saturday (matches start 1400 GMT)

Aston Villa v Middlesbrough, Bradford v West Ham, Derby v Everton, Liverpool v Arsenal, Southampton v Sheff Wed, Tottenham v Leeds, Wimbleton v Chelsea

Sunday Sunderland v Coventry (1500 GMT)

Monday Man Utd v Newcastle (1200 GMT)

Leicester v Watford (1900 GMT)

Records on roll at Sydney

SYDNEY, Aug 27: South African Penny Heyns and American Lenny Krayzelburg smashed further world records with astonishing victories at the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships here Friday, reports AFP.

Heyns claimed her third record of the meet with a commanding victory in the 200 metres breaststroke and Krayzelburg completed a backstroke-world record double with victory in the 200m event.

Ten world records have now been set in six days of competition in the Sydney Olympic pool. The Championships finish on Sunday.

The United States pulled back Australia in the gold medal chase with three victories Friday to take their meet tally to nine, two behind the host nation.

Jenny Thompson carried off the 100m freestyle gold and teammate Tom Wilkins landed the 200m medley to carry on from Krayzelburg's success.

Heyns, the Atlanta Olympic champion, lowered a world record for a seventh time in six weeks when she won the final in 2min 23.64sec eclipsing the record of 2:24.42 she set in the semifinal on Thursday.

Dual world champion Krayzelburg smashed the 200m record held by Spaniard Martin Zubero by 0.70 seconds. He set a new record of 1:55.87 and so far has two backstroke golds and two world records.

Zubero had held the record since November 23, 1991.

The 23-year-old Ukrainian-born American swam the first 100m in 56.19 secs -- a sizzling 1.89 seconds under the world record split.

On Tuesday Krayzelburg broke the 100m backstroke world record with a time of 53.60sec to better compatriot Jeff Rouse's record of 53.86sec set at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

"I was really relieved more than anything, a lot of people have been talking about the record," said Krayzelburg, who still has the medley relay left to swim here.

"The 100m (world record) I was happy with, but this is the one I felt all the pressure for. I'm so excited by the time, I'm ecstatic."

Heyns turned in 1:09.16 under record pace and finished powerfully to leave world silver medalist Kristy Kowalski (2:25.52) of the US in her wake.

"I felt in the last 50m that I was losing it mentally, I wasn't as tough as in the other evenings," Heyns said.

"That's why I was so shocked at the time -- I can't believe it."

It definitely is a boost for next year but apart from that it's fun because the crowd appreciates it so much."

Jenny Thompson won her 22nd championship title clocking 54.89secs in the 100m freestyle beating Australian pair Sarah Ryan and Rebecca Credy.

Wilkins put in a strong third breaststroke leg to hold on and win the 200m medley in 2:01.01 from Canada's Curtis Myden and Australian Matthew Dunn.

Outside of Heyns and Krayzelburg's records here, Australian Ian Thorpe has set three freestyle records, twice in the 200m and the other in 400m; Thompson broke Mary T. Meagher's 18-year-old 100m butterfly standard and the Australian 200m freestyle relay team beat their world record.

Commonwealth Games champion Geoff Huegill swam a championship record to give Australia a strong hand in the men's 100m butterfly.

Huegill clocked 52.45secs to shade world champion Michael Klim into Saturday's final. Klim won the other semi-final in 52.76, 0.61secs outside his world record.